



START CURRENT STAY CURRENT

*A child support guide
for new fathers*



Congratulations! You are starting the most important job of your life – being a dad. This guide will help answer questions you may have about supporting your child. Child Support Services wants to help you be the best dad you can be. Let's take a look at some of the most common questions about child support.

Why Pay Child Support?

Children need love, food, clothing and medical care to be healthy and happy. Child support helps pay for a child's needs. If a child gets what they need from both parents, they will be better prepared for the future.

When child support is regularly received, a parent who lives with the child can take better care of his or her needs. They can make sure the child has food and clothing.

As the parent who does not live with the child, you can feel better making sure the



child has the basic needs met. Also, you should be able to get along better with the other parent. When your child knows he or she can count on you, the child will be more likely to see you as a caring and involved parent. It is the right thing to do.

Who Can Apply for Child Support Services?

Either parent, or another person taking care of a child, can apply for child support services.

Why Open a Child Support Case?

Getting a child support order and paying child support while your child is young is a smart thing to do. Judges can order back child support payments for up to two years. Starting early keeps you from owing a large amount of back child support. Making payments through DHS also gives you a good record of what you have paid.

Can Child Support Help Me Get Custody or Visitation?

CSS does not handle visitation or custody issues. Until otherwise ordered by a court, written agreements, preferably agreements that are a result of mediation are encouraged to document custody and parenting time with the child. Parents should seek the advice of an attorney and/or mediator.

How Can a Child Support Office Help Me?

CSS can:

- Answer questions about child support
- Help find a missing parent
- Help get child support orders
- Help get child support orders changed
- Help collect child support payments even across state lines

CSS cannot:

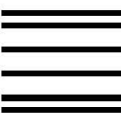
- Represent either parent in court
- Give you legal advice on what you should do

How Do I Apply?

Fill out the attached card and mail it in. CSS will send you an application. You can also call the CARE Customer Call Center to ask for an application or you can download the application at www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/ocss/ and click on the “Apply for Services” link.

How Much Will It Cost Me?

There is no cost to apply for child support services. Your child support payment amount is set by a judge based on how much money both parents make each month. To see how much this might be, go to the child support calculator at www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/ocss/ and click on the “Calculate Child Support” link.



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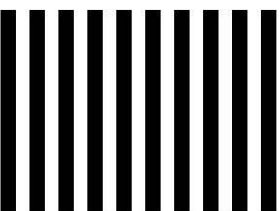
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CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

PO BOX 25352

OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73125-9975



How to get a Child Support application:

1. Fill in the information below
2. Sign the card
3. Mail the card

No stamps are needed.

Your name (print)

Address

City/state/ZIP code

Phone number

Child's name

Child's mother's name

Signature

Date

If you need any help filling out this card, please call the CARE Customer Call Center toll-free at 1-800-522-2922.

- Oklahoma City area:
(405) 522-2273
- Tulsa area: (918) 295-3500

I Have Other Questions About Child Support

Call the CARE Customer Call Center toll-free at 1-800-522-2922. In the Oklahoma City Metro, call 522-2273. In the Tulsa Metro, call 295-3500.

How Can I Pay Child Support If I Don't Have a Job?

There are lots of ways to find a job. There are both public and private agencies that can help.

Some of the public agencies are:

Workforce Oklahoma –
www.ok.gov/okworks/
1-888-980-WORK (9675)

Oklahoma Employment Securities
Commission – www.oesc.ok.gov
(405) 557-7100

State of Oklahoma, Office of Personnel
Management – www.ok.gov/opm/
(405) 521-2177

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation
Services –
www.okrehab.org/seekers/index.htm
1-800-487-4042

Oklahoma Department of Career and
Technology Education –
www.okcareertech.org/
(405) 377-2000



Child Support Services

DHS Pub. No. 05-11

Revised 8/2014

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